

# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

& POLAR NUMISMATIST

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## MUNICIPAL TRADE TOKENS SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

### VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA –

These days, tokens are taking a whole new form, or rather a whole old form. Indigenetnetwork: First Nations Women in the Art Co-Operative is issuing their very first municipal trade token, the Nakasgam (pronounced na-'kas-gum) which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the repeal of the Potlatch ban.



Meaning “10 Dollars” in the Kwakwala ('kwa-kwa-law) language, the token's shape is inspired by the “money” used by the Kwakwaka'wakw (kwa-kwa-key-'walk) in their traditional Potlatch ceremonies. The “Copper”, as it was known, was a large shield made of local natural copper, adorned with various traditional designs. “We are very excited about this project” said Lou-ann Neel, a founding director of Indigenetnetwork and the Kwakwaka'wakw artist that designed the piece, “the Nakasgam coin has been created in the spirit of the Potlatch and the Copper traditions to carry a message of honour, to acknowledge and recognize all those who have kept these important teachings and traditions alive with integrity – during the 67 years of the Potlatch Ban and the 50 years since the Ban was repealed”.

The Nakasgam bears an original Raven design created by Lou-ann Neel in a style and form consistent with the work of her great-grandfather, Charlie James ('Yakudlas pronounced 'ya-koo-glass) and her grandmother, Ellen Neel ('Kakasolas pronounced ka-ka-so-'loss). “The Raven was chosen because of the rich historical legends associated with this being, and the parallels that the Raven's legends and teachings have to our modern world” explained Neel. “Raven is also represented in Kwakwaka'wakw legends as a messenger – carrying important messages from one tribe to the next, always maintaining the highest degree of integrity and truth in the messages conveyed”.

These superb tokens were produced by Eligi Consultants Inc. for Indigenetnetwork in the following metals:

Metal	Mintage
Antique Copper	1,000
Nickel Plated	125
Gold Plated	125

[www.eligi.ca/bonavita](http://www.eligi.ca/bonavita)

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

First things first. If any subscribers not in the US have not received recent issues, please let me know and I will resend them. The US Postal Service raised rates for Canada and other international destinations, and I mailed some with the old postage. I have only received one back for additional postage.

Special thanks to Serge Pelletier for giving permission to reprint the article on the front page. We saw this a few years ago, and finally got around to asking for permission to reprint. While it is BC, the connection between the native peoples of BC and southeast Alaska is very strong, as is evidenced by the use of copper shield money, known in Alaska as "tinnahs."

I did not realize it but we reported on the "Scadahovian" in January 1997. You can see it in "For the Record" again this month!

Work continues on Kenton's picnic shelter. The retaining wall is almost done. We are planning a final work party/thank you cookout the weekend of August 11. A friend of Jan's is making an "inukshuk" that we think we will place on the hill above the retaining wall.

A few people have asked that I run photos in the newsletter. I think we will have enough done to do that in the next issue, which may be a bit late. I am taking another quick trip back to Mass. to see mom.

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## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Cordova</b> , Winsor Hotel, 6¼¢, B-41a	124.99
<b>Cordova</b> , Winsor Hotel, 12½¢, B-41c	51.00
<b>Fairbanks</b> , Riverside & Wonder, 75¢	94.00
<b>Ft. Yukon</b> , Carter, 50¢, B-3c	150.00OB
<b>Fox</b> , Borr..., 25¢, b-1a	615.00
<b>(Goodnews Bay)</b> , Rutlader, \$1 B-2c	36.00
<b>Haines</b> , Chisel, 5¢, B-4a	RL150.00OB
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Hotel Connell, 5¢, B-11a	OB95.00NB
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Olympic Bak., 1 Loaf, B-39a	250.00OB
<b>Kukak Bay</b> , Hemrich, \$10, B-1gI	OB250.00NB
<b>Seward</b> , Northern, 12½¢, B-8bII	75.00
<b>Seward</b> , Northern, 12½¢, B-8bII	27.50OB
<b>Seward</b> , Northern, 12½¢, B-8bIII	59.88
<b>Skagway</b> , Mascot, 12½¢, B-17c	41.00
<b>Valdez</b> , C.B. Buffet, \$1, B-4cI	RLOB1308.00NB
<b>Valdez</b> , Pioneers of AK, \$5 note, B-18a	OB85.00NB
<b>Whitehorse</b> , YT, TDP, \$10	OB24.99NB
<b>Whitehorse</b> , YT, TDP, \$20	24.99OB
<b>AYPE Gold</b> , 1 DWT, NGC-62	400.00OB
<b>AYPE Gold</b> , set of 3	1,012.00RNM
<b>AYPE Gold</b> , set of 3, NGC	RLOB9.99
<b>Alaska Statehood</b> Gold Medal (Stack's)	7,130.00

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist  
 RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve W = withdrawn  
 BIN = Buy it now DNS = Did Not Sell

## TINNAHS IN RUSSIAN AMERICA

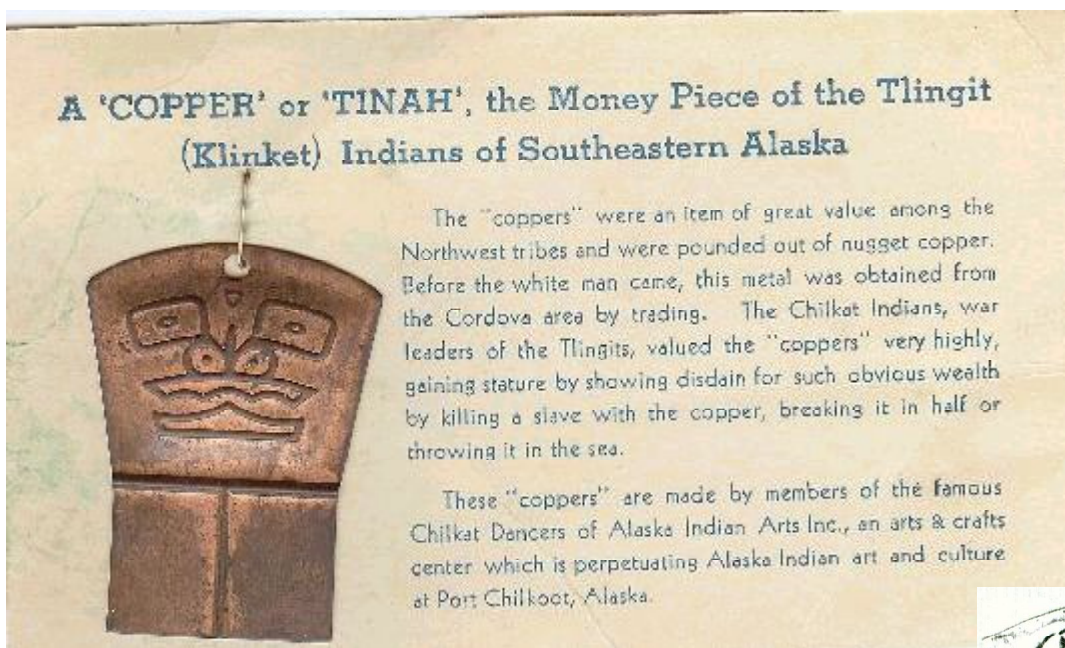
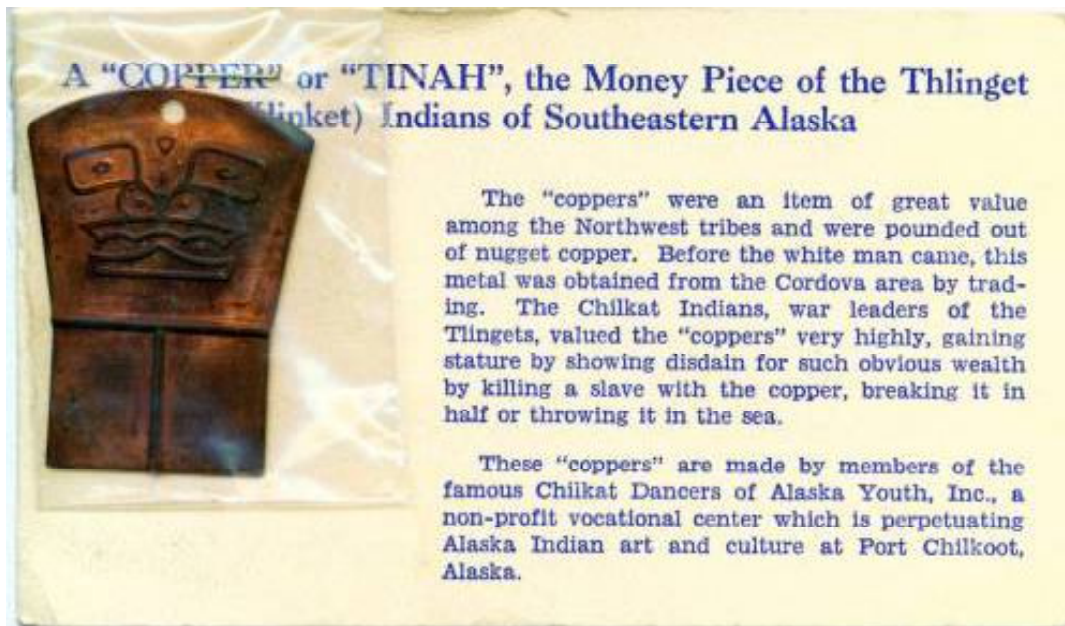
From "The Russian-American Company, Correspondence of the Governors Communications Sent: 1818" translated by Richard Pierce, Limestone Press, 1984.

Page 50: March 28th, No. 84 Order to the NA Office:

"Considering the trade in the straits not to advantageous for the company I have left it to Captain Roquefeuil and made the [following] exception, by which the office will please issue to the vessel several copper breast plates (tynna) esteemed by the Koloshi, and explain to the prikashchik their importance and that the Koloshi value them because they are supplied from the Mednaia [Copper] River." Koloshi = Tlingit

**WANTED: ALASKA WOODEN TOKENS. BUY OR TRADE. SEND LIST OR COPIES WITH PRICE.**  
 BOB BROWN, BOX 124, HIGHSPIRE, PA 17034.<sup>5/7</sup>

# HAINES-PORT CHILKOOT TINNAHS



These were originally covered in an article by Karl Ward in the July 1980 issue of ATC&PN (copy available for \$2 plus SASE). The tinnah on the card at the top is one of three versions of cards reported at that time. It was originally attached like the one at the bottom (it is now in a plastic sleeve and stapled to the card). The card at the bottom, submitted by Kaye Dethridge is a bit different. The card at the top indicates that the "tinnahs" are made by the "Chilkat Dancers of Alaska Youth Inc." while the one at the bottom states "Chilkat Dancers of Alaska Indian Arts Inc."



The two "tinnahs" shown on cards are the second type. A rubbing of the first type is shown to the right.



# THIS MONTH'S SALES OFFERINGS



In looking through our Alascom Aurora medals, we noticed something odd. One side appear buffed or polished. So, we dug around to find other medals to make a comparison. Low and behold, someone polished off "The performance people." Officially done by Alascom because the slogan was outdated (or maybe someone else's?). In any case, we only have two of these, priced at \$25. The normal Alascom Aurora is \$18.50, or the pair for \$40.



Since we are offering the Alascom Aurora medal, we might just as well offer the Alascom Aurora II medal at \$18.50.



This medal just does not come in very often. It is one ounce of pure silver, but is not marked on the medal. The case has a sticker stating pure silver, and they weigh one ounce. Minted by the Pacific Mint, this is a well

struck piece with a neat gold panner. The reverse has the midnight sun with oil derricks, oil tanks, pipe and a bear and cubs. We never thought of it as a "Pipeline" medal, but perhaps we should. A nice medal in original plastic case - \$25.



Cassiterite Placer Inc. issued gold and silver medals. Offered here is the 1993 silver medal. It has a really nice map of Alaska. The reverse is very similar to the old Washington quarter eagle reverse. A neat medal, rarely offered for only \$25.



Finally, one of the scarcest (at least in Fairbanks) and the plainest of the 25th Anniversary of Statehood commemoratives. Very simple design, obviously to keep die charges down and take advantage of this historical event. Priced at \$25.

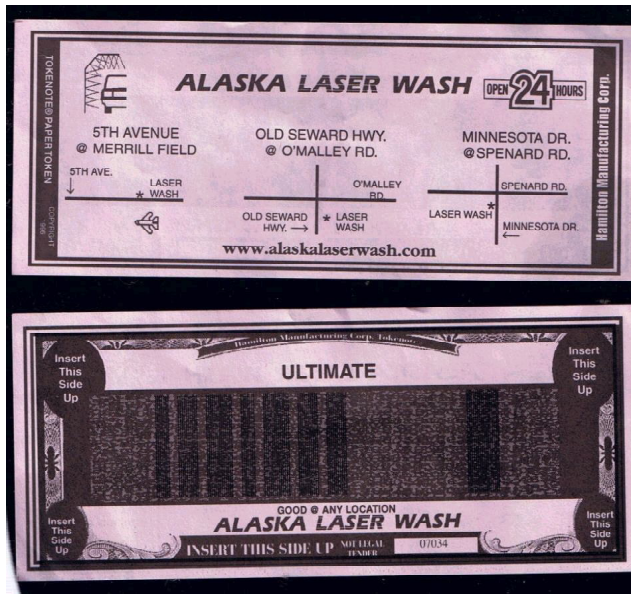
All prices are plus postage. Please include an additional \$5 for our flat rate postage charge.



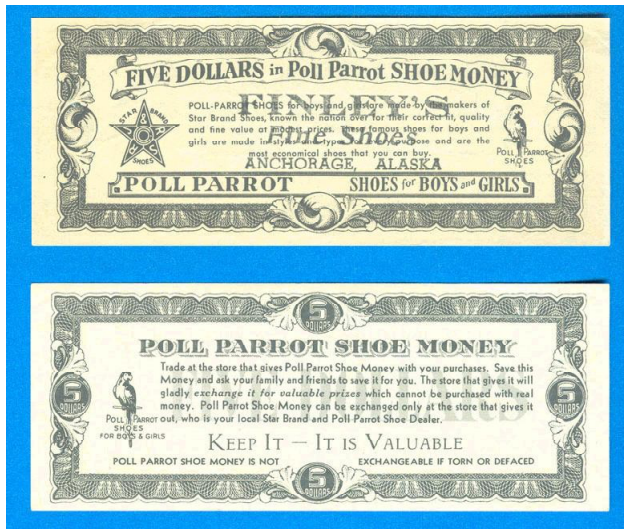
I have a few gold tokens left. Please write if interested. I will make more this winter.



# PAPER POTPOURRI



**ANCHORAGE:** Alaska Laser Wash. Three scrip notes for different levels of service: Stainless (yellow), Supreme (blue), Ultimate (pink), all 157mm by 66mm. These represent values of \$8 and up. Since they are accepted by a mechanical reader, they do not photocopy well (for security purposes) (submitted by Ken Rieck).



**ANCHORAGE:** Finley's Fine Shoes, 5 Dollars Poll Parrot Shoe Money. Size not reported, color probably green on white with black overprint. eBay price realized \$61. A second example is now being offered. A Poll Parrot encased cent is also known, shown at a much reduced size, usually about 39mm. No known connection to Alaska.



**FAIRBANKS:** University of Alaska. Scrip used for a Monte Carlo or Carnival activity, with various people involved with student activities: \$1,000, bright pink, Gail Adams, Student Activities Director; \$20,000, orange, Liz Guinn, WC (Wood Center) Administrative Assistant; \$50,000, purple, Cheryl Worthen, WD Facilities Coordinator; \$100,000, turquoise, Beth Porter, WC Student Activities. Other values might exist. All black printing, irregular sizes, approximately 137mm by 55mm.



**FAIRBANKS:** University of Alaska Pub. Usage probably similar to the above. \$150,000, dark pink, "fortes fortuna iuvat"; \$2 Million, green, "asinus asinus fricat." Both with black printing, Irregular size, approximately 137mm by 55mm.



# FOR THE RECORD



**ANCHORAGE:** Anchorage Softball Umpires Association. Cast, pewter color, 30mm (submitted by Ken Rieck).



**ANCHORAGE:** Elks Club. Three poker chips: Gold on red with elk head and 1351 on obverse, BPOE and 1351 on reverse; and two with similar designs - Elks head, BPOE and 1351 on the obverse and "Klondike" on the reverse. These both have gold printing. One is white with red inserts, and the other is green with brown(?) inserts.



**ANCHORAGE:** Buckaroo Club, 500, You won't get Bucked here. Black on white plastic, 38mm. Other dominations previously reported (submitted by Ken Rieck).



**(KATALLA):** Scandahovian, Gust Anderson, Prop. "23". Aluminum, 24mm. Gust Anderson is listed in the directories as being in the saloon business in Katalla from 1907-1910. Kaye Dethridge speculates that "23" is for 23 Skidoo, or "let's get out of here." The purpose for this eludes me, but it is as good a guess as any.



**KETCHIKAN:** Olympic Bakery, Good for 1 loaf of bread, B-39a, not illustrated (submitted by Kaye Dethridge).



**INUVIK, NWT:** Geocaching coin. Raven in midnight sun. Home of the Crazy Inuvik Elders, drum dancer. Red, white, blue and purple. Available in gold finish and silver finish. Designed by Inuvik artist Madie-Anne Turner.



# MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS, cont.



**ELMENDORF AFB:** 962d Airborne Air Control Sq., Eyes of the Eagle; E-3 Sentry, Arctic Sentry, AWACS, Yukla 27 22 Sep 1995. Red, green, yellow, white and black enamel on silver colored metal (Kurtis Hawk).



**ELMENDORF AFB:** 962d Airborne Air Control Sq. Commander's Award for Excellence. Red, green, yellow, white and black enamel on bronze (Kurtis Hawk).



**ELMENDORF AFB:** Arctic Thunder 2004, Cross into the blue. Light blue, dark blue and white on gold colored metal (obverse) and the same colors and black on silver colored metal (reverse).



**ELMENDORF AFB:** Air Force, Cross into the Blue. White, blue, and yellow on oxidized silver metal (Kurtis Hawk).



**FT. WAINWRIGHT:** U.S. Army, Army of One. Red, yellow, white, blue and black on oxidized silver metal (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



**FT. WAINWRIGHT:** 172d Infantry Brigade (Separate), Arctic Warrior Battalion. Red, white, blue, yellow and green on bronze (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



**FT. WAINWRIGHT:** 172d SBCT Arctic Wolves, 3d ASOS Arctic Grizzlies; Air Support On Call, Operation Iraqi Freedom, 05-06. Red, blue, green, brown, black and yellow on bronze(submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



**ALASKA:** Challenge coin type medal. Red, white, blue and yellow on silver colored metal.

**Editor's note:** Challenge coins range in size from 38mm to 50mm and larger, but most are 38mm to 40mm. Many times, sizes are not listed in the eBay auctions.